

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 861

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Judge Kenneth Porter upon the celebration of his eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Kenneth Porter of Cocke County, former Circuit Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District, is celebrating his eightieth birthday on April 6, 2014, a milestone that he will commemorate as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the son of the renowned trial attorney John Calhoun Porter, James Kenneth Porter followed in his father's footsteps to enjoy an exemplary career as an attorney, politician, public servant, and judge; and

WHEREAS, Judge Porter earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, he distinguished himself among his peers by serving as a delegate to the Southeastern Law Review and editor-in-chief of the *Tennessee Law Review*; he was named Outstanding Law Graduate by Phi Delta Pi legal fraternity and was awarded the Order of the Coif; and

WHEREAS, after completing his studies, Judge Porter returned home to practice law and also served astutely as Cocke County attorney, chairman of the Cocke County Election commission, and chairman and member of the executive committee of the Cocke County Republican Party at various times; and

WHEREAS, during the 82nd and 83rd General Assemblies, Kenneth Porter served the good people of Cocke and Jefferson counties as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he returned to Capitol Hill to serve as a member of the Senate during the 88th General Assembly, representing Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Union, and part of Claiborne Counties; and

WHEREAS, Judge Porter served in the General Assembly when it was controlled by Democrats, and he holds the distinction of being the first Republican to have an office assistant and the first Republican to have a telephone in his office; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Kenneth Porter demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bench, the bar and a grateful public as well; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the family and many friends of Judge Kenneth Porter in celebrating this gentleman's eightieth birthday, commend his exemplary career as a jurist, attorney, politician, and public servant, and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.